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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
1 December 1973

SCOWCROFT
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QUANDT

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST
(Situation as of 1330 EST)

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2. On the ground, UN observers yesterday reported an unusually high number of Israeli complaints of Egyptian cease-fire violations, but confirmed only one of the 23 complaints made. UN patrols responding to Egyptian complaints on 30 November were denied access to an area about ten miles west of Faiq, where Israeli forces allegedly had advanced one mile westward in recent days. It may be this advance that has drawn an Egyptian threat to fire on the Israeli forces if they are not withdrawn.

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4. Alert conditions, of which the above are illustrations, remain high.

5. The Egyptian government's press officer, quoted by the Middle East News Agency, stated that Egypt sees no point in resuming the Kilometer 101 talks since this would only mean further Israeli stalling on the second clause of the cease-fire agreements. He said the two superpowers "should first compel Israel to respect its signature and commitments toward the UN resolutions." The report does not mention any threats of unilateral action by Egypt.

6. No unusual activity has been reported from the Syrian front. A semi-official news agency report from Damascus, citing official sources, declared today that Syria is still considering the question of a peace conference but as of now "sees no benefit in attending." The report noted that Israel has not yet begun to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories as required by UN Security Council resolutions and said that as long as "large shipments of arms are daily pouring into Israel" it would be "illogical" for the Arabs to attend a peace conference.

7. In a policy address today, King Husayn of Jordan declared that Jordan is also withholding acceptance of a peace conference invitation until the question of Palestinian representation is clarified.